



## MANAGEMENT OF AGRICULTURAL CHEMICAL SPILLS, REPORTING AND REMEDIATION

NORTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH - DIVISION OF WASTE MANAGEMENT

Telephone: 701-328-5166 C Fax: 701-328-5200 C Rev: 07/01 C Website: [www.health.state.nd.us](http://www.health.state.nd.us)

---

The North Dakota Department of Health recognizes the health and safety hazards associated with agricultural chemicals and pesticides. In conjunction with the Department of Agriculture, the Division of Waste Management has developed this management outline to ensure proper notification and management of spill residues. Should a spill of an agricultural chemical or pesticide occur, the owner of the product is responsible for an immediate and appropriate course of action to reduce the effect of the spill and for any remediation as a result of the spill.

### Immediate Actions.

#### 1. Personal safety

The most important thing to remember is the first responder's personal safety. Approach the spill from upwind or crosswind. If possible, without exposing yourself to the spilled material or vapors, obtain the label for the spilled material. Use the specified personal protective equipment. Do not come in direct contact with the material without the necessary protective clothing - gloves, coveralls, etc.

#### 2. Ensure safety of the spill site

Evacuate the immediate area and take precautions to limit both vehicular and pedestrian traffic in the area of the spill. If the spill is a result of a vehicle accident, check the safety of the operator or operators of the vehicle(s) involved. Provide security, if necessary, to prevent onlookers or animals from entering the area.

#### 3. Limit the spill and its extent

Take immediate steps to limit the spill, if this can be accomplished without exposure. The less material spilled, the smaller the problem. This may involve sealing a break, turning off a valve, returning the vessel to an upright position, or any other action which would stop the release of the contaminant, if this can be accomplished safely.

#### 4. Containment

Take action as early as possible to contain the spill by diking, sandbagging, trenching, applying absorbent material, or other means to limit the spread of the spilled material.

## 5. Notification

State Radio at 1-800-472-2121, Department of Agriculture at 1-800-242-7535, Division of Water Quality at 701-328-5210, Division of Waste Management at 701-328-5166. Reporting to the National Response Center at 1-800-424-8802 may be necessary.

Notification should include as much information as possible regarding the incident including the following:

- a. Substance spilled, including both trade name and chemical name whenever possible and any information readily available as to toxicity.
- b. Quantity of substance spilled, including types and size of containers and vehicles involved.
- c. Date and time of spill occurrence or discovery.
- d. Exact location of the spill.
- e. Thorough description of the area, including the local terrain and drainage, soil types, existing surface water, ponded water, groundwater table, nearby residences, or population centers.
- f. Responsible party, including name, address, and telephone number where the individual can be readily reached.
- g. Weather conditions, including wind direction and velocity, temperature and precipitation.
- h. Cause of the spill.

### **Removal and Cleanup Actions.**

The required cleanup is determined on a case-by-case basis depending on the type of chemical spilled, quantity of chemical spilled, location of the spill, geology/hydrology of the area, and any other factors such as climatic conditions. This could be as simple as removing a few shovels of soil and spreading it thinly, to hiring an emergency response contractor for an extensive cleanup.

The Department should be contacted for guidance on appropriate remediation which address the protection of public health and the environment and compliance with state laws and rules.